

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AEC-05 DODE-00 FEAЕ-00

FPC-01 H-01 INT-05 L-02 NSC-05 PM-03 OES-03 SS-15

IO-10 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EURE-00 /105 W

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P R 141750Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8295

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 352

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EEC

SUBJECT: EC ENERGY COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 13, 1975: HIGHLIGHTS

REFS: EC BRUSSELS 10014, DEC. 18, 1974

1. SUMMARY: THE EC ENERGY COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 13 HEARD A PRESENTATION FROM EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET ON HIS IDEAS REGARDING ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCES AND A REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING CONSUMER/PRODUCER PREPARATORY CONFERENCE (REPORTED SEPTEL). THEY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ON THE MEANS FOR ACHIEVING THE COMMUNITY'S ALREADY-APPROVED GOALS FOR THE REDUCTION OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY 1985 AND A DIRECTIVE RESTRICTING THE USE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN POWER STATIONS. THE COUNCIL HELD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PROPOSED COMMON ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT OF HYDROCARBONS, AND ON PROPOSALS FOR SHORT-TERM CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES. THE BRITISH BLOCKED ACTION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF MINIMUM STOCKS AT THERMAL POWER STATIONS.

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THE FRG RAISED ITS PROPOSAL FOR DUTY FREE ENTRY OF

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FROM IRAN AND RECEIVED A NEGATIVE REACTION (REPORTED SEPTEL). END SUMMARY.

2. MEANS FOR ACHIEVING 1985 ENERGY OBJECTIVES:

THE MINISTERS APPROVED A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE COMMISSION TO MAKE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON MEANS TO ACHIEVE THE COMMUNITY'S ENERGY REDUCTION TARGETS FOR 1985 WHICH WERE APPROVED DECEMBER 17, 1974.

3. THE RESOLUTION (A COPY OF WHICH WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM) CALLS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF COAL PRODUCTION AT PRESENT LEVELS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF BROWN COAL AND PEAT PRODUCTION. IT ASKS THE COMMISSION TO SET NUCLEAR ENERGY PRODUCTION TARGETS AS GUIDANCE FOR MEMBER STATES AND TO STIPULATE, IN PARTICULAR, OVERALL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NUCLEAR FUEL. THE RESOLUTION NOTES THE COUNCIL'S WILLINGNESS TO EXAMINE WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE COMMUNITY RULES TO INSURE BALANCED SUPPLY OF ALL FORMS OF ENERGY AND MAINTENANCE OF EC MARKET UNITY--IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TREATY PROVISIONS--IN CASE OF SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES.  
(COMMENT: THE FULL INTENT OF THIS PART OF THE RESOLUTION IS UNCLEAR. IT EVOKED LENGTHY DEBATE. SOME SAW IT AS A FRENCH EFFORT TO INSURE ACCESS TO NORTH SEA OIL IN CASE OF NEED).

4. RESTRICTION OF USE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN POWER STATIONS: THE COUNCIL APPROVED A DIRECTIVE RESTRICTING THE USE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN POWER STATIONS. THE DIRECTIVE IS SIMILAR TO THAT GOVERNING NATURAL GAS (REFTELS). IT PROHIBITS, WITH CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS, CONSTRUCTION OF NEW POWER STATIONS WHICH WOULD BE HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON OIL FUELS AND THE CONVERSION OF EXISTING POWER STATIONS TO BURN SUCH FUELS WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF MEMBER STATE AUTHORITIES.

5. MINIMUM STOCKS OF FUEL AT THERMAL POWER PLANTS:  
THE MINISTERS CONSIDERED A DRAFT DIRECTIVE OBLIGATING MEMBER STATES TO INSURE THAT STOCKS OF FUEL SUFFICIENT FOR THIRTY DAYS' NORMAL OPERATION ARE MAINTAINED AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THERMAL POWER STATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY. ALL DELEGATIONS EXCEPT THE BRITISH WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THIS DIRECTIVE. THE BRITISH OBJECTED ON GROUNDS THAT THIS SUBJECT WAS NOT WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE COMMUNITY. THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE, LORD BALOGH, DID ULTIMATELY AGREE TO TAKE THE QUESTION UP AGAIN IN LONDON. COUNCIL SOURCES SPECULATED THAT THE BRITISH WILL GO ALONG AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE,

PROVIDED THEY CAN MINIMIZE THE RISK OF ANTI-MARKET  
FORCES EXPLOITING THE SOVEREIGNTY ASPECT.

6. OTHER ACTIONS: THE COUNCIL HELD A BRIEF INITIAL  
DISCUSSION OF A COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION  
ON COMMON ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPORT AND EXPORT OF HYDRO-  
CARBONS. THE MINISTERS ARE TO TAKE THE MATTER UP  
AGAIN AT THE NEXT ENERGY COUNCIL.

7. THE MINISTERS ALSO CONSIDERED A COMMISSION PAPER  
ON FIXING OF SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES FOR COMMUNITY  
ENERGY CONSERVATION. THE PERM REPS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED  
TO EXAMINE THE PAPER FURTHER, IN LIGHT OF THE  
COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION, AND THE MINISTERS EXPECT TO  
DEAL WITH THE SUBJECT AT THEIR NEXT MEETING.

8. NO DATE WAS FIXED FOR THE NEXT ENERGY COUNCIL  
MEETING BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY REGARDING PREPARATIONS  
FOR THE CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFERENCE (SEE SEPTEL).  
IF THE MINISTERS FOLLOW THE BI-MONTHLY SCHEDULE WHICH  
THEY ADOPTED AT THEIR LAST SESSION, THE NEXT  
REGULAR ENERGY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD TOWARD THE END  
OF APRIL.

9. COMMENT: THE COUNCIL TOOK FINAL ACTION ONLY ON  
RELATIVELY INNOCUOUS ISSUES PUTTING OFF ACTION ON  
THE MAJOR AND MORE CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS. AS  
ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED, ENERGY COUNCIL MEETINGS WERE  
SEEN AS APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL CENTRALIZED FORA  
FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S  
ENERGY POLICY. THESE MEETINGS WERE TO BE ATTENDED  
BY A VARIETY OF MINISTERS-FINANCE, ENERGY, TRADE  
AND ECONOMICS, AND FOREIGN--DEPENDING ON THE PARTICULAR  
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ISSUES.

10. IN PRACTICE, THE ORIGINAL GOAL IS NOT BEING  
ACHIEVED. FOREIGN MINISTERS, FINANCE MINISTERS AND  
OTHERS CONTINUE TO DISCUSS ENERGY-RELATED TOPICS IN  
THEIR OWN SEPARATE COUNCIL MEETINGS, LEAVING THE  
ENERGY MINISTERS OR, MORE FREQUENTLY, STATE SECRETARIES  
TO DEAL WITH THE MORE TECHNICAL DETAILS. WITH A  
FEW EXCEPTIONS, THE MINISTERS WHO HANDLE ENERGY DO  
NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BROAD ENOUGH MANDATES, OR ENOUGH  
CLOUD AT HOME TO NEGOTIATE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS TO  
A CONCLUSION. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT AT PRESENT THE  
CENTER OF GRAVITY FOR IN-DEPTH ENERGY WORK IS THE IEA  
AND MANY IF NOT MOST EC COUNTRIES ARE EITHER UN-  
WILLING OR UNABLE TO MAKE SUCH AN INTENSIVE EFFORT

IN THE COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK. FRG STATE SECRETARY  
ROHWEDDER'S COMMENTS ON IEA-RELATED ITEMS (SEPTEL)  
ARE SYMPTOMATIC IN THIS REGARD.GREENWALD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSERVATION, MEETING AGENDA, ENERGY, PETROLEUM, POLICIES, MEETINGS, IMPORTERS, EXPORTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ECBRU01318  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750054-0971  
**From:** EC BRUSSELS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750243/aaaabmal.tel  
**Line Count:** 172  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** EC BRUSSELS 10014, DEC. 18, 1974  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EC ENERGY COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 13, 1975: HIGHLIGHTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ENRG, EEC, IEA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006